

1896.

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Durham Rural District Council

(WESTERN DISTRICT.)

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*Annual Report*

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Durham Rural  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary State of the Western Division of your District for the year 1896.

Population (Census 1891) 11,117.

Area, 15,797 acres.

The number of deaths for the year is 210, giving a rate of mortality of 18.1 per thousand on an estimated population.

The number of births for the year is 381, or a rate of 39·8 per thousand.

The number of deaths of children under one year is 62, or a rate of 16·2 per cent. of the registered births.

The number of deaths of Zymotic disease is 34, or a rate of 2·9 per thousand, just double the number of the previous year ; Measles and Whooping Cough account for this large increase.

There have been 17 inquests in the year, and 13 uncertified deaths.

No. 1.—Monthly returns of Notifications of Scarlet Fever and Typhoid for the year 1896 :—

	Scarlet Fever.			Typhoid Fever.	
January	...	8	...	...	I
February	...	6	...	...	I
March ...	...	9	...	...	O
April ...	...	9	...	...	I
May ...	...	5	...	...	I
June (1)	...	3	...	...	O
June (2)	...	4	...	...	O
July ...	...	O	...	...	O
August	...	2	...	...	I
September	...	I	...	...	I
October	...	3	...	...	O
November	...	2	...	...	O
December	...	6	...	...	I
		—			—
		58			7

No. 2.—Table shewing Scarlet Fever cases in districts and periods in 1896.

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	TOTALS.
Brancepeth ..	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Broom ... ..	4	...	1	3	...	1	...	1	...	..	...	1	11
Part of Crossgate	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	5
Part of Elvet (including Bearpark Colliery) ...	4	2	6	2	1	1	2	...	1	...	...	1	20
Part of Framwellgate ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hett ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kimblesworth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sunderland Bridge (including Croxdale Colliery) ..	...	...	...	3	4	1	1	1	...	2	2	3	17

The number of notifications of infectious disease during the past year has been 81, and just 100 less than the previous year.

From Table No. 1 it will be seen that Scarlet Fever was specially prevalent in the months of March

and April, and Typhoid Fever was distributed over the whole year.

In Table No. 2 it will be seen that Scarlet Fever prevailed chiefly at Bearpark Colliery, Croxdale Colliery, and Broompark Colliery; whilst Kimblesworth and Hett were free from the disease during the year.

The comparative freedom from Typhoid Fever during the autumn months may be accounted for by the continued damp which prevailed, hindering dissemination of dust and germs, and the plentiful supply of rain water kept the drain pipes and channels free from sewage. In the early part of the year an outbreak of diphtheria took place at Kimblesworth, fortunately it was limited to one household, every care being taken to prevent its further extension.

In February, an epidemic of measles occurred at Croxdale, necessitating the closing of all the schools for three weeks. About the same time also an epidemic of measles occurred at Brancepeth, but as the disease seemed to be disappearing no special steps were taken.

In April, an extensive epidemic of measles occurred at Kimblesworth, and the school was closed for three weeks.

In September, a serious epidemic of Measles occurred at Framwellgate Moor, when the schools were closed for three weeks.



The total number of deaths from Measles has been 22, from four distinct epidemics. In the previous year there was not a single death from this disease.

In July, I urged your Board to include this disease under the Notification Diseases Act for a limited period, but this was not favourably entertained. Some special measures are certainly needed to control the spread of such a fatal disease amongst children, and a Sanitary Authority which is responsible for the public health of a district ought not to count the cost when it is a question of saving life.

Out of 53 cases of Scarlet Fever notified there has only been one death. Five cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Houghall Hospital from the Western Division.

Special notice was taken of a wash-house which was used in common by six houses in one of which Scarlet Fever had occurred.

If the hospital was more freely used there would be a less number of cases of fever to deal with.

The thorough disinfection of houses at the termination of cases of fever seems to do much good in preventing a recurrence of the disease.

There has been no occasion to analyse samples of drinking water during the year ; nor has there been any necessity for interfering with the sale of milk.

List of notices served in the Western Division  
of the Authority during the year 1896 :—

	Number of Notices served.
For the abatement of nuisances, such as ashpits and privies being full of house refuse, foul open channels, gullies and drains blocked, &c. }	59
Served on the owners of property (or their agents) under the Public Health Act, 1875, or under the Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890, to compel them to make their respective properties fit for human habitation ... }	62
These notices apply to 416 dwelling-houses.	
Served in connection with nuisances such as deposits of manure and house refuse too near to public roads, &c., and in connection with Slaughter-houses, Dairies and Cowsheds, &c., all of which have been complied with ... }	35
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TOTAL ...	156
Number of houses disinfected after infectious disease ...	29

Some property on Framwellgate Moor requires  
attention ; notices have been served but not complied  
with.

The foul state of the ashpits and privies in  
Broompark Colliery is not yet rectified ; these structures  
are not made according to the bye-laws.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD JEPSON.

*February 2nd, 1897.*

# AL.—TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1896 in the Durham Rural Sanitary (Western)

District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

LOCALITIES.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Registered Births.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to Middle of 1896.			At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
		2	3								
Brancepeth ...	407	411	12	8	2	1	...	1	3	1	
Broom... ..	1508	1540	68	32	13	9	1	2	7	...	
Part of Crossgate ...	1012	1590	35	28	6	4	1	...	9	8	
Part of Elvet ...	1869	2002	69	35	14	6	2	2	5	6	
Part of Framwellgate ..	3413	2880	99	59	18	16	7	3	9	6	
Hett ... ..	357	409	13	8	3	...	...	...	4	1	
Kimblesworth ...	1192	1060	42	17	4	7	1	...	3	2	
Sunderland Bridge ...	1359	1370	43	19	2	8	...	...	5	4	
Newton Hall Lunatic Asylum	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	..	3	1	
TOTALS ... ..	11117	11460	381	210	62	51	12	8	48	29	







TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the Durham Rural Sanitary (Western) District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

LOCALITIES.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.					Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.
	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Fevers.		Erysipelas.	Scarlatina
			Enteric or Typhoid	Puerperal.		
Brancepeth { Under 5 ... 5 upwards	... 2	... ...	. ...	... ..	... 2	... 1
Broom ... { Under 5 ... 5 upwards	4 2	... ...	. ...	... ...	... 1	... ...
Part of Crossgate { Under 5 ... 5 upwards	1 3	... ..	... 2	... ..	... 7	... ...
Part of Elvet ... { Under 5 .. 5 upwards	3 20	... ...	... 1	... ...	.. 3	... 2
Part of Framwell-gate ... { Under 5 5 upwards	1 ...	... ...	... 1	... ...	... 1	... ...
Hett ... { Under 5 ... 5 upwards	... ...	... ...	... ...	... 1	... 1	... ...
Kimblesworth .. { Under 5 ... 5 upwards	... ...	1 1	... 1	... ..	... ...	... ...
Sunderland Bridge... { Under 5 ... 5 upwards	5 12	... 4	... 1	... ...	... ...	... 2
TOTALS ... { Under 5 ... 5 upwards	14 39	1 5	... 6	... 1	... 15	... 5

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